

Moving to Canada from the UK: Work Visa, Cost of Living, Jobs, and More!



Introduction

Known for its many excellent benefits for residents, Canada has gradually become a top destination for immigrants, including UK citizens, in recent years. Despite its 38 million population, Canada is one of the safest countries in the world. Little wonder it is now home to several foreigners. Though the country has English and French as its official languages, residents speak many other languages.

With its status as the second-largest country in the world, it is a given that Canada has a range of climate conditions. Most parts of the country

experienced 4 seasons. Below temperatures are common during winter going to – 25 C easily in some provinces. Humid summers are common as well.

Regardless, Canada is a great choice if you look to move out of the UK. However, before that, here are a few things you might want to know about how to move to Canada from the UK.

Is Canada a Good Place to Live?

In recent years, Canada has become a popular destination for people worldwide looking for a better place to live, start a new career, and have great educational opportunities. Canada is a good place to live. It is a beautiful country with a diverse population, plenty of natural resources, and ample space for expansion. As a result of a low unemployment rate and a strong economy, the standard of living in Canada is generally high. People also prefer to move to Canada because of the public health care system every Canadian has access to.

Safety

According to the Global Peace Index, Canada remains the sixth safest country in the world since 2019. For internal conflicts, crime levels, and political stability, Canada's scores were particularly good as well.

Natural Beauty

Canada is known for its stunning natural beauty. You can observe breathtaking nature views from the West Coast to the East Coast.

Diversity

With over 21% of the population being immigrants, Canada is a very diverse country. At every corner of the street in major cities, you will find delicious food from all over the world.

Free Healthcare

Healthcare is free in Canada for all permanent residents and citizens, meaning that hospital and physician visits are free. Each province also has a medication program allowing its population to access medication at an affordable price.

(*[Statistics Canada](#) & [Canada Action](#))

Canada Visa Requirements

Getting a visa is the most important requirement for moving to Canada from the UK. Depending on whether you're moving to Canada for work or to move in with a family member, the type of visa you'll need will differ.

Canada Work Visa

A [Canada Work Permit](#), or a Work Visa, is issued to eligible overseas individuals to work in that country for a specific period. A Work Visa can only be applied for after a job offer or employment contract is received from a Canadian employer. It is unnecessary for everyone moving to Canada from the UK to have a work permit. However, it is necessary to determine [whether you require a work permit](#) before beginning the process. Canada has two types of work permits: employer-specific work permits and open work permits. Citizens of the United Kingdom usually do not need a visa to visit Canada for a short time. For those with other types of British nationality or

who intend to travel for an extended period (for example, for work), contact the Canadian High Commission for further information regarding [entry requirements](#).

Working Holiday Visa Canada

[International Experience Canada \(IEC\)](#) Working Holiday Visa is a Canadian government program that allows people between 18 - 35 years of age from carefully selected countries to work in Canada. A Canadian IEC program is probably your best option if you're under 30 and plan on moving to Canada from the UK. Recently, the demand for IEC has increased, making it a bit more challenging to obtain. You may also be able to become a temporary Canadian worker under the intra-company transfer program or via the Canada-UK Trade Continuity Agreement or by travelling under the Global Talent Stream, which offers fast-track work permits for certain occupations, namely tech.

Canada Student Visa

Usually, a [Canada Student Visa](#) or study permit is valid for the duration of your program of study plus 90 additional days. During your 90 days in Canada, you can prepare to leave the country or extend your stay. If you are moving to Canada from the UK, you can obtain a Canada student visa if you are enrolled at a designated learning institution (DLI). You must show that you have enough funds to cover tuition fees and living expenses for yourself and any family members who accompany you to Canada. Among other eligibility requirements, you also have to prove you can cover the costs of the return transportation for you and any family members accompanying you to Canada. Your study permit may include conditions such as whether you can work in Canada, whether you can travel in Canada, the specific date when

you must leave Canada, where you may study (a specific DLI listed on your permit), and whether you must submit to an immigration medical exam.

Spouse Visa Canada

The [Spouse Visa Canada](#) allows you to sponsor your spouse, partner, or dependent children to become permanent residents of Canada. If you do, you must be able to support them financially and make sure they don't need social assistance from the government. You can sponsor your spouse, partner, or dependent child if you're at least 18 years old and you're a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident of Canada. If you're a Canadian citizen living outside Canada, you must show that you plan to live in Canada when the persons you want to sponsor become permanent residents. You are also eligible for this if you're able to prove that you're not receiving social assistance for reasons other than a disability, and you can provide for the basic needs of any persons you want to sponsor. Also, note that Your spouse can be of either sex and must be legally married to you and be at least 18 years old.

Canada Visa Processing Time

The [Canada Visa Processing Time](#) will vary depending on the visa type and time of application. The processing time starts when the immigration centre receives your complete application and ends when they decide. If you apply by mail, the time starts when your application arrives in their mailroom. If you apply online or in person, it starts when you submit your application. Most processing times are historical, meaning they're measured based on how long it took to process 80% of applications in the past. For some permanent resident applicants who have not applied yet, their processing times are projected, meaning the centre measures them based on how quickly they expect to process 80% of the applications.

Cost of Living in Canada vs the UK

The cost of living for one person in Canada is \$2031, whereas it's \$2,233 per month in the UK.

Category	Average cost UK <i>USD</i>	Average cost Canada <i>CAD</i>	Variation
Rent price <i>1-bed flat outside the city centre</i>	\$1,700	\$1140	Rent is 89% less expensive in Canada.
Utilities	\$126	\$311	Utilities are 48% more expensive in Canada.
Groceries	\$200	\$300	Groceries are 15% cheaper in the UK.
Mobile phone plan	\$53	\$101	Cell phone plans are 34% cheaper in the UK.
Supper in a mid-range restaurant	\$53	\$38	Dinner in a mid-range restaurant is 77% cheaper in Canada.
Transit pass	\$111	\$90	Transit passes are 59%

			cheaper in Canada.
Gym membership	\$43	\$51	Gym memberships are 75% more expensive in the UK.
Total	\$2,233	\$2031	The cost of living in Canada is 40% cheaper than in the UK.

London has a much higher cost of living than any other city in the UK. This huge difference is seen mostly in the cost of housing. For instance, in London, you might have to pay between \$1,700 and \$2,600 a month for a one-bedroom apartment in the city center. Meanwhile, the cost of living is dramatically cheaper in a northern city like Sheffield: an apartment in Sheffield's center runs from \$730 to \$1,000.

(*[Numbeo US](#), [Numbeo Canada](#), Lowest Rates, [MovingWaldo](#), [CRTC](#), US Mobile, Sable, [TFL](#), [Expatica](#) & [Internations](#))

Canada Tax Rates

Canada has some of the highest sales and income tax rates globally. Income taxes vary by province and range from 15% to 33%. Sales taxes vary by province and range from 5% to 15%.

(*[Canada](#))

Healthcare in Canada

Canada offers free healthcare to its residents and citizens. [Healthcare in Canada](#) is free for doctor visits and hospital visits, but while the medicine is

partly covered, it's not free. When moving to Canada from the UK, you will not be automatically eligible for Canada's free healthcare unless you are a permanent resident. If you are moving to Canada temporarily, you will have to purchase private health insurance.

In-Demand Jobs in Canada

There are many jobs in Canada for UK citizens and more so in specific sectors. Here are the most in-demand jobs in some of Canada's major provinces:

Ontario

- Industrial painters
- Industrial butchers
- Machine operators (specifically for mineral and metal processing)
- Agriculturists and harvesters
- Truck drivers
- Orderlies and nurse assistants
- Residential installers

Quebec

- IT technicians
- Orderlies and nurse assistants
- Electrical engineers
- Welders
- Nurses
- Early childhood educators
- Media developers
- Civil engineering technicians

British Columbia

- Carpenters
- Hairdressers and barbers
- Construction workers
- Mechanics
- Cooks
- Heavy equipment operators
- Mechanics and millwrights in construction
- Welders
- Electricians
- Bakers

Alberta

- Truck drivers
- Administrative assistants
- Receptionists
- Early childhood educators
- Administrative officers
- Homebuilders and renovation managers
- General office workers
- Accounting technicians and bookkeepers
- Oil sands labourers
- Anesthesiologists

(*Jobboom, Immigration.ca & [WorkBC](#))

Canada Minimum Wage

The average minimum wage in Canada is \$15 per hour. Below is a chart with the minimum wage in each province/territory.

Province	Minimum Wage (per hour)
Alberta	\$15.00
British Columbia	\$15.20
Manitoba	\$11.95
New Brunswick	\$11.75
Newfoundland and Labrador	\$12.50
Nova Scotia	\$12.95
Ontario	\$14.35
Prince Edward Island	\$13.00
Quebec	\$13.50
Saskatchewan	\$11.81
Northwest Territories	\$15.20
Nunavut	\$16.00
Yukon	\$15.20

(*[Savvy New Canadians](#) & [JDSUPRA](#))

Average Salary in Canada

The average salary in Canada is around \$54,000 per year. Below is a chart with the average salary in each province/territory.

Province	Average Salary
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Alberta	\$61,865
British Columbia	\$53,416
Manitoba	\$49,661
New Brunswick	\$49,511
Newfoundland and Labrador	\$55,508
Nova Scotia	\$48,470
Ontario	\$55,524
Prince Edward Island	\$45,912
Quebec	\$51,735
Saskatchewan	\$54,371
Northwest Territories	\$77,670
Nunavut	\$87,355
Yukon	\$61,812

(*[Insurdinary](#) & [Canada Visa](#))

Best Cities to Live in Canada

The best cities to live in Canada have relatively affordable housing, are safe, will keep you entertained, have good schools, have good job opportunities, and are family-friendly.

1. Ottawa, Ontario

2. Calgary, Alberta
3. Burlington, Ontario
4. Quebec City, Quebec
5. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Canada Real Estate

People, especially homebuyers, shouldn't be surprised that housing prices have steadily risen in Canada. There has been a 375 percent increase in home prices nationwide over the past two decades, while in hot markets such as Toronto and Vancouver, the increase has been even greater, at 450 to 490 percent, respectively. According to the Canadian Real Estate Association, the average price today is \$686,650. Those figures jump to \$887,290 in Ontario and to \$913,471 in British Columbia. Even smaller markets such as Tillsonburg, Ontario, or Bancroft, Ontario, see rising home prices as remote workers and families move out of the cities to less crowded areas.

Those moving to Canada from the UK should know that houses are required for a down payment. If you are unfamiliar with the property buying process, a down payment is an initial deposit made when purchasing a property, while the balance is paid over a period. The down payment is deducted from the total purchase price of the property. At present, residential real estate activity, including renovations, ownership transfers, and real estate commissions, contributes more than 10 percent of Canada's GDP.

Besides a down payment, you will also require mortgage default insurance. Mortgage default insurance protects you against payment default. You need mortgage default insurance when your down payment is less than 20% of the home's value. Self-employed individuals and individuals with a spotty credit history often need mortgage default insurance, even with a 20% down

payment. The insurance company will not provide mortgage default insurance if you purchase a home for \$1 million or more or if your credit score does not meet their requirements. Payments for mortgage default insurance are referred to as premiums. The amount varies from 0.6% to 4.50% of your mortgage amount.

(*[National Post](#) & [Forbes](#))

House Prices in Canada

The average house price in Canada is 686,650. Below is a chart with the average house price in each province/territory.

Province	Average House Price
Alberta	\$401,705
British Columbia	\$913,471
Manitoba	\$321,504
New Brunswick	\$262,200
Newfoundland and Labrador	\$321,700
Nova Scotia	\$356,757
Ontario	\$887,290
Prince Edward Island	\$335,202
Quebec	\$459,955
Saskatchewan	\$286,600

Northwest Territories	\$360,030
Nunavut	\$641,831
Yukon	\$542,515

(*[National Post](#), [Forbes](#), [Canadian Real Estate Wealth](#), [Nunavut News](#) & [Canada Real Estate Association](#))

Canada Weather

During summer, the average weather in Canada is 22°C, and during winter, it is -7°C.

Average weather during the summer and winter across Canada

Province	Summer Temperature	Winter Temperature
Alberta	22°C	-10°C
British Columbia	25°C	7°C
Manitoba	21°C	-14°C
New Brunswick	24°C	2°C
Newfoundland and Labrador	25°C	0°C
Nova Scotia	24°C	-4°C
Ontario	25°C	-5°C
Prince Edward Island	24°C	-7°C

Quebec	24°C	-11°C
Saskatchewan	24°C	5°C
Northwest Territories	19°C	-10°C
Nunavut	9°C	-22°C
Yukon	19°C	-14°C

Canada Snow

Canada is undoubtedly one of the coldest habitable regions in the world. If you are moving to Canada from the UK, you can expect even more snow and cold than you are used to in the United Kingdom. Over two metres (6.6 feet) of snow falls on ten of Canada's largest cities every year. Most of the snowiest cities are spread throughout Central Canada and the Maritime Provinces. As Canada's snowiest large cities, St. John's, Newfoundland, Saguenay, and Quebec lead the list. Snowfall in St. John's is the highest, but in Saguenay, fresh snow falls on most days.

Additionally, Saguenay leads all Canadian cities for the time snow remains on the ground. Each of Canada's ten most snow-prone cities has at least 55 days per year with 2 millimetres of snow. Calgary, Alberta, with 54 days of snow annually, does not quite make the list of places with the most days of snow. However, Calgary often experiences fresh snow at a time of year when most other cities don't expect any. More snow falls in Calgary in May, September, and October than in any other large city in Canada. On average, there are two or three days of snowfall in May, one or two in September, and four in October.

(*[Climate-data.org](https://climate-data.org), [Weather.gc.ca](https://weather.gc.ca), provincial websites & [Current Results](#))

Canada Driving License

Depending on the province you're moving to, you will be required to exchange your driving license for a provincial or territorial one between 90 days to 6 months upon your arrival. When it comes to driving in Canada, each province has its organisation that deals with driving licenses and vehicle registrations. For example, in Quebec, it's the [SAAQ](#), and in British Columbia, it's the [ICBC](#).

Varying by province, Canada has a set of [Distracted Driving Laws](#) that include consequences for the following actions while driving:

- Talking on a handheld device
- Texting while driving
- Reading
- Watching videos
- Programming a GPS
- Eating or drinking
- Grooming
- Smoking or vaping

Shipping from the UK to Canada

To ship your things from the UK to Canada, you have 2 options:

1. Ship them by plane: a good option if you're starting fresh and will only be bringing a few things with you.
2. Ship them by hiring an [international moving company](#). This is your best option if you have a bigger budget and a lot of things. When searching for an international moving company, ensure that insurance is included. Their prices aren't extravagant (get many quotes), they have good Google reviews and excellent customer service.

What to Expect from Your New Life in Canada

Canada is a safe country filled with stunning natural beauty and plenty of job opportunities. Expect chilly winters, high costs of living in major cities, and don't text and drive!